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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/722,306	11/28/2000	Yasunobu Iwata	Q61090	5612

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SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER

ROSSOSHEK, YELENA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2825

DATE MAILED: 09/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/722,306

Applicant(s)

IWATA ET AL.

Examiner

Helen B Rossoshek

Art Unit

2825

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 November 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 03 June 2003 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the application 09/722,306 filed 11/28/2000 and amendment filed 06/03/2003.

2. Claims 1-4 remain pending in the application. Amendment has been fully considered by the examiner. Since applicant's arguments are not persuasive, the examiner presents new reference.

Specification

3. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1 the limitations of "unavailable area" and "available area" are formulated indefinite to what it means nor specification supports these limitations with clear explanations.

5. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 2 line 5 before "and" delete ",", insert --;--

Claim 3 line 3 delete "the address" insert --an address--

Claim 3 line 4 before "and" delete "a" insert --;

Claim 3 line 5 after "of" delete "a" insert --the previously--

Claim 3 line 8 delete "the order" insert --an order--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Komiya et al. (US Patent 5,126,956).

As to claim 1 Komiya et al. teaches an unavailable area for storing a plurality of previously stored circuit patterns of circuit elements as shown on the Fig. 9 patterns stored in a character generator (CG) included in the system of FIG. 8 (abstract; col. 7, ll.39-45); an available area for storing elements of a circuit pattern being input within memory (MEM) shown on the Fig. 8; circuit pattern extracting means for making a comparison between a circuit element of the circuit pattern being input and corresponding circuit element contained in one of the plurality of previously stored circuit patterns stored in the unavailable area, and extracting from the plurality of

previously stored circuit patterns an extracted circuit pattern in which the comparison indicates agreement between the compared circuit elements within the discriminator (DIC) shown on the Fig. 11 as the part of the display controller (DPC) shown on the Fig. 8, which retrieves the relay identification for comparison with relay identification (CRA) after transferring from character generator (CG) shown on the Fig. 8 and storing in register (RG) shown on the Fig. 11, wherein the comparison takes place in the comparator (COM) shown on the Fig. 11 (col. 8, ll.45-63); display means for displaying the extracted circuit pattern using the display controller shown on the Fig. 8 and Fig. 11 (in details) (col. 7, ll.21-33); copying means the extracted circuit pattern into the available area in response to an input by an operator within manual data input device (MDI 301g) shown on the Fig. 8 (col. 7, ll.6-11).

As to claims 2-4 Komiya et al. teaches when more than one extracted circuit pattern is extracted, the display means successively displays, for selection by an operator, the plurality of extracted circuit patterns, using display controller (DPC) the operator may select the segment for displaying (col. 8, ll.13-21); in response to the selection of one of the plurality of extracted circuit patterns, the copying means copies circuit pattern into the available area within input device (301g), data processing unit (301m) table (301j) shown on the Fig. 8 (col. 7, ll.28-32); the display means displays a previously selected circuit pattern as a top priority within the display controller which stores all selected patterns in the refresh memory (RFM) and after comparison stores them (if it was successive) in the picture memory (IMM) and then they are displayed sequentially according the conception of the ladder circuit in the sequence program (col.

8, ll.2-12); a selected circuit pattern address storage area storing the address of a previously selected circuit pattern (col. 5, ll.52-58); replacing means for placing the address of a selected circuit pattern at the head of the selected circuit pattern address storage area as shown on the Fig. 10 the display controller (DPC) specifies an identification display area, symbolic display area and an address display area; wherein the display means displays as a top priority the previously selected circuit pattern according to the order of address stored in the selected circuit pattern address storage area (col. 8, ll.2-12).

Conclusion

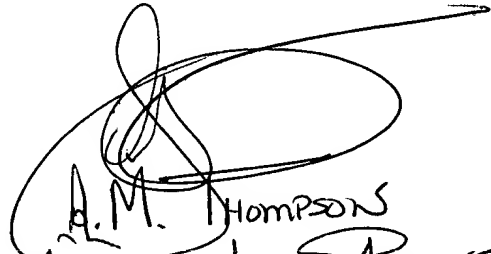
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helen B Rossoshek whose telephone number is 703-305-3827. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew S Smith can be reached on 703-308-1323. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

HR

HR


A.M. THOMPSON
MASTER'S LEVEL PATENT EXAMINER
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